REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 are pending in the application; reexamination and reconsideration are hereby requested.

1. The drawings were objected to because Figure 3a should be Figure 3.

The Appendix contains replacement sheets.

2. The Specification was objected to for various informalities.

The Specification has been amended.

3. Claims 1-3 were rejected as unpatentable over Gersho in view of Honda. The Examiner cited Gersho column 13, lines 17-22 for the claim 1 requirement of frame classification, apparently identifying Gersho "transition" frames with claim 1 weakly-voiced frames. And Honda column 3, lines 27-33 was cited for zero-phase equalization filtering.

Applicant replies that Gersho column 13, lines 22-25 classifies frames into stationary unvoiced, steady-state voiced, and transition frames; and transition frames are encoded with the transition encoder of FIG.4D and column 14, lines 13-23. The transition encoder is a multi-pulse encoder without pitch prediction filter; whereas, claim 1 requires pitch prediction filter in the weakly-voiced encoder. Of course, Gersho's "transition" frames do not correspond to the weakly-voiced frames and thus would not use the required pitch prediction filtering.

Further, claim 1 requires a zero-phase equalization filtering for weakly-voiced frames but not for strongly-voiced frames; whereas, Honda column 7, lines 46-47 and FIG.1 show that phase-equalization filter 38 is applied to the entire speech signal, and column 7, line 67 and FIG.2 show phase-equalization filter 31 applied to the all voiced frame residuals. Thus there is no suggestion to apply zero-phase equalization only to the weakly-voiced frames but not to the

strongly-voiced frames as required by claim 1. Consequently, the references do not suggest claim 1.

Claim 3 is a decoder corresponding to the encoding of claim 1, and thus the same arguments regarding the lack of pertinent suggestions of the combination of Gerhso and Honda apply.

Respectfully submitted,

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